(5) has the Cochin Government addressed the Coimbatore District Board and with what effect ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) Yes. The bridge work was completed by the end of 1103.

(2) Rs. 14,374—2—0.

(3) Yes. From the Coimbatore District Board.

(4) Yes.

(5) Yes. The President has informed this Government that the land necessary for the approach road on the British side will be handed over to the P. W. D. shortly.

Petitions for a road from Pudukkad Railway Station to Pazhayi Desom.

296. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of petitions with dates the Government received from the people, Pazhayi Desom in the Nammanikkara village for a road from the Pudukkad Railway station to their desom :

(b) what was the exact reply, dated 19th February 1920, given to one of their petitions;

(c) the exact reply, dated 11th January 1921 given to another petition ;

(d) whether there is a rule that petitions which are a continuation or reminders of previous petitions need not be stamped ;

(e) whether any petition, dated 10th Karkadagam 1103, from the people of Pazhayi to the Diwan was rejected by the Secretary to the Diwan ; if so, on what grounds ; was the same petition resubmitted ; if so, what was the nature of the petition and what action has the Government taken regarding same ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a)Five. The dates are

(1) 29— 2—1095.
(2) 23—11—1920.
(3) 3—12—1924.
(4) Nil.
(5) 13—12—1103.

(b) "The request is noted and will be considered in due course."

(c) No reply has been given on the date mentioned. But a reply was given on 8th January 1921 to the effect that their request will be considered in 1097.

(d) Yes; if final orders on the previous petitions have not been passed.

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(c) A petition received on 15th Karkadagam 1103 was rejected by the Secretary to the Diwan, being unstamped. The same petition was not resubmitted to Government. But another petition, dated 13th Karkadagam 1103, was received and it was forwarded to the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats for disposal.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was it considered in 1097?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I understand from the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats that it was postponed in 1097 for want of funds.

President.—So there was a consideration.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The thing began in 1095. Did anything come out of these considerations?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Estimates are being prepared by the Panchayat Department for this matter has been dealt with by the Panchayat.

President.—Where is it?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It is at the place where the Manali and Kurumali rivers meet.

President.—Is the construction of the road under consideration? Is there a road?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are some small village roads.

President.—Will this be an accomplished fact next year?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The land has been surveyed and estimates are being prepared.

President.—How many miles of road will be required?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—About one and a half miles. But there is a difficulty. We have to cross the Railway line and we have to put up a bridge over a *thodu*.

President.—So the work is likely to entail a large expenditure.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—It is more than 9 years since the matter was under consideration. What is the reason for this delay in delivering even after this nine years' pregnancy? Has not the consideration come to an end?

President.—The consideration is not yet finished.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Were not the contents of this petition the same as those of the previous petition? May I know what is the date of the last petition which was rejected?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the date of the rejected petition, that is, the petition received on the 15th

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of Karkadagam? It was received on the 15th of Karkadagam 1103 and the next petition was received on the 13th of Karkadagam. What is the date of the petition which was rejected?

President.—You have received a petition on the 15th of Karkadagam and it was rejected, and you say in the answer that a subsequent petition was received on the 13th of Karkadagam. I think the subsequent petition must be of a subsequent date. How do you explain the discrepancy?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The rejected petition was undated. (*Laughter.*)

Malayalam Schools—Aided and Sirkar.

297. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the Table a statement containing the following:—

(a) the actual strength of class IV in each of the aided Malayalam schools of the State on the annual examination in 1103;

(b) the actual number that sat for the examination;

(c) a statement containing the above particulars called for in (a) and (b) in respect of class IV in each of the Sirkar Malayalam schools?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—(a), (b) & (c). A statement giving the particulars is placed on the Council Table.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—From the list supplied in the Appendix, you will find that the strength of class IV in most of the Government schools and the number of attendance and the number that sat for the examination are almost the same. There will not be any great difference. If there are 30 students in the class, the number that attended the examination will almost be 30 or 29. But in aided schools this is not the case. There is great difference between the strength and the number that sat for the examination with a very few exceptions. I shall read the figures:—

Peringottukara	80	80
	32	32
	22	22
	18	18
Nedupuzha	16	15

In the majority of the Government schools you will find that the number that attended the examination is almost the same as the number of students in the class. But the case is quite the reverse in aided schools.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—There were very many who attended the school. What the Member says is not correct.

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